

To-day's Advertisements.

THEATRE ROYAL.
CITY HALL.
THE HONGKONG AMATEUR DRAMATIC CLUB
will produce a Pantomime entitled,
'THE YELLOW DWARF.'
or
'HARLEQUIN THE KNAVE OF HEARTS,
and
'FAIR PRINCESS.'
TO-NIGHT, the 14th January, 1899.
The TICKET OFFICE at the Theatre will be OPENED and Seats can be booked from 10 A.M. to 4 P.M., every day; SUNDAYS and GENERAL HOLIDAYS excepted.
DOORS OPEN at 8 P.M.
PERFORMANCE at 8.30 PRECISELY.
Stalls and Dress Circle \$3
Pit 1
Half Price to Soldiers and Sailors in uniform to the Pit.
Late Trams to the Peak a quarter of an hour after fall of the curtain.
E. W. MITCHELL,
Hon. Secretary.
Hongkong, 14th January, 1899. [1440]

VICTORIA PRECEPTORY.
AN EMERGENCY MEETING of the VICTORIA PRECEPTORY will be held at the Freemasons' Hall, Zealand Street, TO-NIGHT, the 14th instant, at 8.30 for 9 p.m. precisely. Visiting Sir Knights are cordially invited to attend.
Hongkong, 14th January, 1899. [202]

WANTED.
A SECOND-HAND BICYCLE, send full particulars to Dr. STEPHENS, Dentist, Manila.
Hongkong, 14th January, 1899. [752]

Intimations.
KUHN & KOMOR,
JAPANESE FINE ART CURIOS,
21 & 23, QUEEN'S ROAD, HONGKONG,
35, WATER STREET, YOKOHAMA
and
36, DIVISION STREET, KORE.
Hongkong, 15th March, 1898. [42]

THE LEADING CATERERS.
COMPARE OUR
MENU, BILLIARD TABLES and LIQUORS to all others.
THE GRILL ROOM.
Hongkong, 1st September, 1897. [39]

WANTED.
We pay highest cash prices per hundred or per thousand for current or obsolete issues of POSTAGE STAMPS of China, British Colonies, &c., either used or unused. Rare old stamps especially desired and for which best prices will be paid. Remittances always first made after receipt of consignments.
KOLONA STAMP CO., DAYTON, OHIO, U.S.A. [1162]

SIEN TING,
SURGEON DENTIST,
No. 10, PAGULAR STREET.
TERMS VERY MODERATE.
Consultation free.
Hongkong, 27th September, 1898. [43]

DENTISTRY.
SU SANG,
(Lately Practising with Dr. I. SAKATA),
DENTIST.
No. 8, Queen's Road Central.
Hongkong, 4th January, 1899. [182]

A. S. WATSON & Co., LIMITED.
WINE AND SPIRIT MERCHANTS.
ESTABLISHED 1841.
SCOTCH WHISKY.

A.—THORNE'S BLEND, White Capsule \$10.80
B.—WATSON'S GLENROCH MELLOW BLEND, Blue Capsule, with Name and Trade Mark 10.80
C.—WATSON'S ABELON-GLENLIVET, Red Capsule, with name and Trade Mark 12.00
D.—WATSON'S H.K.D. BLEND OF THE FINEST SCOTCH MALT WHISKIES, Violet Capsule 14.40
E.—WATSON'S VERY OLD LIQUEUR SCOTCH WHISKY, Gold Capsule 15.00
THORNE'S BLEND and WATSON'S GLENROCH are high class Soda Whiskies, of greater age than most brands in the market.
ABELON-GLENLIVET is a very old Peat Whisky, (smoky) and could not now be replaced in stock at this price.
D is well known for its fine flavour.
E is of superb quality and pronounced by leading local connoisseurs to be the best brand in the Hongkong market.

A. S. WATSON & Co., Limited,
THE HONGKONG DISPENSARY.
Established 1841.

To-day's Advertisements.

NOTICE.
THERE will be a PRACTICE GAME OF HOCKEY at the CLUB GROUND, on TUESDAY, the 17th instant, at 4.45 P.M. Members wishing to play should notify the Hon. Sec.
Hongkong, 14th January, 1899. [762]

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.
No. 18.
WANTED several Chinese as POSTMEN in the GENERAL POST OFFICE.

Qualifications:—
Certificate of health and physique from the Principal Civil Medical Officer.
Security for good behaviour to the amount of \$50.
A fair knowledge of English and Chinese writing.
Salary will be at the rate of \$15 per month, and two of the successful candidates will, after probation, be selected to superior posts at a salary of \$20 per month.
Applications should be made to the POSTMASTER GENERAL on or before MONDAY, the 23rd instant, stating name and address, age, education, &c.
By Command,
T. SERCOMBE SMITH,
Acting Colonial Secretary.
Colonial Secretary's Office,
Hongkong, 14th January, 1899. [732]

EYE-SIGHT.
MR. N. LAZARUS,
Oculist-Optician, of London and Calcutta, may be consulted for SPECTACLES at FLETCHER & Co.'s PHARMACY, (Opposite the HONGKONG HOTEL).
Business Hours: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

A great proportion of catarrhs and diseases affecting those advancing in life occur to those having some deficiency in the construction of the eyes—the many years of "Eye Strain" ending in serious forms of diseases. Glasses specially adapted in youth to those requiring them save and preserve the sight.
Constantly recurring headaches, spells of dizziness when reading, weak eyes, the letters running together; any of these symptoms indicate a deficiency in the form of the eye requiring Glasses only to correct and cure.
MR. LAZARUS supplies his SPECTACLES only after testing the sight.
ADVICE FREE. [722]

CHINA NAVIGATION COMPANY, LIMITED.
FOR SWATOW AND SHANGHAI:
The Company's Steamship
"WHAMPOA,"
Captain Sales, will be despatched as above TO-MORROW, the 15th instant, at Daylight. For Freight or Passage, apply to BUTTERFIELD & SWIRE, Agents.
Hongkong, 15th January, 1899. [662]

THE CHINA AND MANILA STEAMSHIP COMPANY, LIMITED.
FOR MANILA (DIRECT).
THE Company's Steamship
"ESMERALDA,"
Captain Taylor, will be despatched for the above port, on MONDAY, the 16th instant, at 5 P.M.
This steamer has Superior Accommodation for Passengers and is fitted with the Electric Light.
For Freight or Passage, apply to SHEWAN, TOMES & Co., General Managers.
Hongkong, 14th January, 1899. [712]

DOUGLAS STEAMSHIP COMPANY, LIMITED.
FOR SWATOW, AMOY & TAIWANFOO.
THE Company's Chartered Steamship
"NANYANG,"
Captain Lehmann, will be despatched for the above ports, on TUESDAY, the 17th instant, at Daylight.
For Freight or Passage, apply to DOUGLAS LAFFRAK & Co., General Managers.
Hongkong, 14th January, 1899. [722]

FOR SINGAPORE, PENANG AND CALCUTTA.
THE Steamship
"LIGHTNING,"
Captain J. G. Spence, will be despatched for the above ports, on TUESDAY, the 17th instant, at 3 P.M.
For Freight or Passage, apply to DAVID SASSOON, SONS & Co., Agents.
Hongkong, 14th January, 1899. [702]

INDO-CHINA STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY, LIMITED.
FOR MANILA.
THE Company's Steamship
"YUENSANG,"
Captain P. H. Kolfe, R.N.R., will be despatched as above on THURSDAY, the 19th instant, at 3 P.M.
This Steamer has Superior Accommodation for First and Second class Passengers.
For Freight or Passage, apply to JARDINE, MATHESON & Co., General Managers.
Hongkong, 14th January, 1899. [772]

AUSTRIAN LLOYD'S STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY.
NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES.
FROM TRIESTE, FIUME, ADEN, BOMBAY, PENANG AND SINGAPORE.
THE Steamship
"GISELA,"
having arrived Consignees of Cargo are hereby informed that their Goods are being landed at their risk into the Godowns of the Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Company, Limited, whence delivery may be obtained.
This vessel brings no Cargo:—
From Trieste, ex S.S. *Imperatrice* transhipped at Bombay.
From Venice, ex S.S. *Massimiliano* and *Carlotto* transhipped at Trieste.
Optional Cargo will be discharged here unless notice to the contrary be given immediately.
No Claims will be admitted after the Goods have left the Godowns, and all Claims must be sent in to the office of the Undersigned before Noon on the 20th instant, or they will not be recognized.
No Fire Insurance has been effected, and any Goods remaining in the Godowns after the 20th instant will be subject to rent.
Bills of Lading will be countersigned by SANDER, WIELER & Co., Agents.
Hongkong, 14th January, 1899. [302]

MARRIAGE.
GEARY-WILLIAMSON.—At the Roman Catholic Cathedral, Hongkong, on the 14th January, by the very Rev. Father Vignani, J. WILLIAMSON, master s.s. *Chow Pa*, to ELIZABETH, eldest daughter of Captain John Geary, Singapore. [742]

The Hongkong Telegraph
HONGKONG, SATURDAY, JANUARY 14, 1899.

REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.
NEW UNITED STATES AMBASSADOR FOR LONDON.
LONDON, January 14th.
Mr. Choate, a barrister has been appointed United States Ambassador to London.

THE DREYFUS AFFAIR.
M. De Beaurepaire belongs to the Civil section of the Cour de Cassation and although his denunciation and bias are largely based on hearsay it enables the Anti-Dreyfusites to repudiate beforehand the decision of the criminal-section of the Court.

THE UNITED STATES AND THE PHILIPPINES.
In a debate on the Philippines in the Senate Senator Foraker, speaking apparently on behalf of President McKinley said, that whilst the country was unanimous against restoring the islands to tyrannical Spain or abandoning them to disorder and anarchy, the American occupation would not be permanent and that neither President McKinley nor the Senate desired anything but the ultimate independence of the Philippines.

WEATHER REPORT.
The Observatory report says:—On the 14th at 11.50 a.m. The barometer has risen on the China coast, particularly in the North. A high pressure area now covers Central China, and the depression in E. Japan is probably moving into the strong monsoon on the coast, and N. part of the China Sea. Forecast:—strong N. E. winds; cloudy, some drizzling rain or mist.

LOCAL AND GENERAL.
A FOOTBALL match was played this afternoon at the Happy Valley Grounds between H. W. Looker's eleven, and the Navy, and resulted in a victory for the Navy by 4 goals to nil.

CHIANG Kuei-ti who was degraded after the war with Japan, has on the recommendation of Jung Lu been restored to favour, and had an audience the other day.

A JAPANESE contemporary learns that Captain de Maubeuge, the commander of the *Ernest Simons*, will be compulsorily retired under the age clause of the Messageries Maritimes on arriving home this voyage.

CROWDS of half-starved poor are already besieging the Taitai's Yamen at Tientsin to get help, and as far as possible food is being given them from the public supplies. Several bodies have been found frozen to death.

THE authorities have received a telegram from Commander Fujimoto, now in London, reporting that the torpedo boat destroyer *Murakumo* was handed over on the 29th ult. and that he expects to leave London on or about 16th inst.

MESSRS. LUGENS, EINSMANN & Co., General Agents of the Great Eastern and Caledonian Gold Mining Co., Ltd. inform us that they have received a telegram from their manager at the mines saying that he shall start the mill crushing to-day.

A VERY healthy young leopard, about eight months old, is now on view at No. 3 Old Bailey. We understand that the owner is anxious to part with his pet so those who indulge in private menageries have an opportunity of adding to their collection.

THE five-year-old daughter of a Chinese gentleman living at Tientsin was burnt to death on the 24th ult. being unable to escape from her father's house which was burnt to the ground. Her feet were probably tightly bound, and thus the poor child was unable to escape.

THE great posthumous honour of being carried into the city of Peking has been granted to the late Gen. Feng Shen, in addition to a grant of 1,000 towards the funeral expenses, and positions for his son and grandson. It is only very rarely that a funeral procession is allowed to pass the gates into the city and out again, and it is a special mark of favour to the old Tartar General.

WE are informed that, subject to audit, the Directors of the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation propose to pay a dividend of £1.100 per share, a bonus of £1 per share, add \$1,000,000 to the Reserve Fund, write off \$300,000 from Property Account and carry forward about \$89,000. The £250,000 2½ per cent. Consols Special London Reserve remain at 23½ and £95, £225,000 2½ per cent. Consols have been written down to £90 and exchange 2½. The balance of Sterling Securities, about £300,000 remain as at present in books and exchange 2½.

THE following paragraph from *Freedom* serves to show that journalism in Manila is at times conducted under difficulties.—Readers of *Freedom*, we arise to apologize for the size of this issue. A paper famine is stalking abroad throughout the land, and notwithstanding we have 2,000 reams in transit, we came very nearly finding it impossible to obtain enough paper of any kind for this impression, and had begun to think we would have to publish on silk handkerchiefs. The very best we could do under the circumstances was to cut our paper in half, or down to its original size.

In addition to the battalion of Welsh Fusiliers the troopship *Avoca* brought to Hongkong six sergeants who are en route for Wel-hai-wei to act as instructors to the 1st Chinese Regiment to be raised there, one of the officers of which will be Lieut. Wood, a son of Sir Evelyn Wood. The sergeants at present in Hongkong are Sgt. Young and Dunn, (Black Watch), Cooke (Scots Guards), Bunting and Purdon (Goldstream Guards) and McKenzie, (Northumberland Fusiliers). These non-commissioned officers have all been specially selected for their work and are fine specimens of the British Soldier.

MR. W. M. B. Arthur, chief clerk of the Magistracy, returned from leave of absence a few days ago and resumed his duties this morning. Mr. Arthur's many friends will be glad to learn that he looking exceptionally well after his holiday.

DR. SUZUKI, President of the Kobe Prefectural Hospital, set out on the 2nd inst. on a tour of inspection of all hospitals along the Sanyo and Kiushiu railways. His object is to inspect the different buildings before selecting a plan for a new Ken hospital here. A grant for a new Hospital has been passed by the Ken Assembly.

ABOUT 200 persons are reported to have fallen through the ice where three small rivers meet outside the western gate of the Native City at Tientsin, about 100 losing their lives. The traffic there is considerable, and the ferry boats usually plying had been superceded by sleighs. The ice however, was not thick enough, and suddenly gave way under the crowd.

FROM the latest statistics, the *Osaka Mainichi* computes that the total amount of paper currency in circulation in the Empire is ¥177,817,442. Of this sum ¥169,685,706 are convertible notes of the Bank of Japan, ¥5,007,734 Government paper money and ¥3,124,002 notes issued by various banks. Thus the note issue of the country amounts to about ¥4 on an average per head of the population of the Empire. Adding the hard currency, the amount of money circulating per head reaches about ¥5.

MESSRS. Benjamin, Kelly and Potts in their *Weekly Share Report* state:—Banks.—Hongkong and Shanghai Banks have ruled very firm and several sales at 254 per cent. premium have been effected. The market closes strong with buyers at 255 per cent. premium. The London quotation remains unchanged. Nationals are wanted at \$17½. Marine Insurances.—Unions have changed hands at \$239 and \$330. China Traders are enquired for at \$64. Fire Insurances.—Hongkong Fires are wanted at quotation. China Fires have been placed and are in demand at \$89. Shipping.—Hongkong, Canton and Macao Steamboats have hardened and shares have been sold at \$27 and \$28, closing steady at the latter rate. Indo-China has been placed at \$61 and \$62, closing with sellers at the last quotation. Douglas Steamships are much firmer and sales have been effected at \$54 and \$55. Star Ferries are wanted at \$11½. Revenues.—In China Sugars are quiet. Lurons are in the market at \$55. Mining.—Lurons have been sold at \$61 and \$64. Queen Mines have been placed at 75 cents. Jubels have been placed at \$5½. Olivers b have been placed at \$5.40. Great Eastern and Caledonians have been fixed at \$7.65, \$7.75 and \$7.85. Charbonnages have been in demand and have been taken off the market at \$115. Raubs, after sales at \$50, have dropped to \$47 with sales and buyers. Docks, Wharves and Godowns.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks are again much firmer and after sales at 295 per cent. premium have been placed with further buyers. Kowloon Wharf shares are in demand at \$78½. New Amoy Docks have been sold and are wanted at \$15½. Lands, Hotels and Buildings.—Hongkong Lands have been placed at \$75 and \$76 and are now enquired for at \$78½. Kowloon Lands are wanted at \$18½. Hongkong Hotels have changed hands at \$71½ and more can be placed. Humphreys' Estate have been done at \$8½. China Properties: a large business has been put through at \$100. Cotton Mills.—Hongkong Cottons are in request at \$10. Miscellaneous.—Green Island Cements have changed hands at \$27½ and \$28½ for the Old and New respectively. A. S. Watsons have been placed at \$12½ and \$13½, closing in demand at the latter rate. Tramways have been sold and are wanted at \$12½.

CRICKET.
CAPTAIN DYSON ELEVEN V. MR. SERCOMBE SMITH'S ELEVEN.
A Match was played on the Club Ground this afternoon between the above elevens. The following are the scores:—

CAPTAIN DYSON'S ELEVEN.
Campbell G. D. c. Smith b Reinold 0
Whitson b Reinold b Lowe 35
Barton thrown out 80
Langhorn c Strong b Smith 26
Wood not out 42
Campbell b Reinold 0
Dyson not out 33
Edgerton 0
Elliott 0
Izai 0
Colville 0
Extras 5
Total 221

MR. F. WELD on the 24th December bagged a bull-elephant at Chikus in Perak, standing 7 feet 6 in. at the shoulder, the tusks weighed 11½ lbs. The weapon used was a double-barred 12-bore rifle, carrying 6½ drs. of powder, and a hardened spherical lead bullet. One shot between its head and ear settled the beast.

A NAVAL FUNERAL.
A sailor died of enteric fever on board the Russian cruiser *Krylov* at Singapore on the 2nd inst. The songs on all the men-of-war and Government vessels in the harbour, were half-masted. The body was brought ashore on the afternoon of the 3rd, at 4 o'clock, in a boat towed by a steam-launch and accompanied by an officers' gig and a boatload of blue-jackets to form the firing party. The Russian Consul met the coffin with wreaths of flowers, and the procession then proceeded to the Catholic cemetery at Bukit Timah Road, where the services were read by the chaplain of the Russian Volunteer Fleet steamer *Vladimir*.

PICKPOCKETS AND SNAKERS.
Pickpockets and chain snatchers were greatly in evidence in Singapore on the occasion of the New Year Sports on the Esplanade. On the 3rd inst. Poh Ah Ki was sentenced to three months imprisonment for stealing 50 cents from the pocket of a compatriot on the Esplanade. Another Chinaman, who admitted three previous convictions, got six months, supplemented with fifteen cuts of the rotan, for a similar offence. A Chinese lad named Soh Ah Chong for snatching at a watch and chain got ten cuts with the rotan, and Lim Ah Chan, an older hand, who pleaded guilty to two previous convictions, for a similar offence, was sentenced to three months imprisonment and 15 cuts with the rotan. Hong Chong for snatching a chain also got six months' rigorous imprisonment.

THE PHILIPPINES QUESTION.
In connection with the statement made in the United States Senate by senator Foraker, as reported by Reuter, the following, from the *Singapore Free Press* of 4th instant will prove of interest:—

The situation grows distinctly more gloomy in the Philippines, simply because the United States authorities will not conceive that the spirit of freedom can live in any other atmosphere than that which thickens on the 4th July with fireworks, processions, and spread-eagle nations. Unless the United States quickly decline the Philippines a protectorate and accept the state as a free self-governing nation, to represent the liberator and will only represent a flagrant filibusterism. The intervention called for in Cuba, where there is no organised civil government, is not needed in the Philippines, where the civil and military power erected by the people as an incident in their expulsion of Spanish authority, stands for a popular sovereign authority which cannot be impugned by the Americans, unless they first tear up their own Declaration of Independence and scatter its repudiated fragments to the winds. The feature of the situation is that the United States have not now to deal with a military provisional government at the head of a people in revolt against Spain. They have rather to deal with a civil government nominated and proclaimed by a duly convoked constituent National Assembly—a very different thing. This is a body, which, except in respect to its material force, is not

less sacred, on Republican principles, than is the Government of the United States. Whether the United States is to crush it for daring to come into existence in just as orthodox a way remains to be seen. But to the neutral non-Republican observer the position is a quaint one indeed. What is greatly to be feared is that the United States is going to do what it is hard at work persuading itself is the right thing to do, in a very ominously wrong sort of way. With the memories of 1776 to guide it, the efforts of Aguinaldo and his leaders to procure a radical revolution in the Philippines should have had the most thorough going support and the most absolute recognition. But if 1776 is something to play with, a doll to pet or to smack and put into a corner at will, why then the United States, on the principle of might being right, are right. Logically, of course, they were in that case wrong in 1776, except in so far as they got their way. It was not the cause that was righteous, though they shouted for it, it was that they could put a bigger lot of musketeers into the field, and win the country better.

Obviously the thing to do is to *pro tempore* recognise the National Government, provisionally make a treaty with it recognising the Philippines as a protectorate, but possessing indefeasible rights of internal self-government, and then—if there was any doubt about the title of the Government under the Presidency of General Aguinaldo to represent the people—arrange either for a *placitum* or for a *Constituent Assembly* to be held who should endorse, or amend, the existing administration. We are told in a special telegram that General Aguinaldo is "coalescing" with the Americans. We do not know what or how much that means. But what we infer is that Aguinaldo is not offering resistance to the advance of the American forces over the country he has conquered, pending the promulgation of a declaration of policy on behalf of the United States. The case at Iloilo promises to be of this character. The Spaniards surrendered on the 24th, the Filipinos enter on the 26th, and an American expedition leaves Manila on the 28th, apparently to dispute possession of Iloilo with its captors. Frankly, we feel anxious about the position of affairs in the Philippines, and the chief ground of anxiety is that the United States military authorities there appear to be acting on motives that imply the abandonment of the root principles on which the United States has from the beginning professed to take its stand. To make hay of a far inferior Spanish squadron is one thing; to destroy the first efforts at national liberty of a numerous and determined people is another thing. It is even not yet too late to choose the wiser and more honourable course.

STRAITS NEWS.
(From Singapore Papers.)
The death rates in Penang for four weeks ended Dec. 3rd were 33.92, 26.95, 27.41, 24.63. The American cruiser *Raleigh* left Singapore on the 1st inst. for New York via the Suez Canal.

TIN.
There is a revival of the tin-mining industry in Puket, Siamese Malaya, at present, prices being firmer. A Chinaman who started mining there without a licence was fined \$300, the other day.

HONORABLE MARRIAGE.
The marriage of Mr. Percy Leigh Inghen 1st Bn. P. W. O. Regt., with Miss Eleanor Sussie Lyall, will take place at St. Andrew's Cathedral, on Saturday, 14th January, at 4.15 p.m.

RAISING RECORDS.
A Malay constable in the Penak police was sentenced, the other day by the Senior Magistrate there to four years' rigorous imprisonment for falsifying the rigor record at Malang to favour a doubtful claimant to certain property left by a deceased Malay woman.

THE "ABANA" FLOATED.
The S. S. *Abana*, which was wrecked off Labuan recently on a sunken reef and afterwards beached to prevent her sinking in deep water, has been floated off with the tug boat and appliances sent out by the Tanjong Pagar Dock Co., and has now been towed into Labuan.

ATTEMPTED ROBBERY.
When the last mail left Kuala Lumpur news has just come in of a daring attempted robbery at the 15th mile on the Bentong Road. One man of a treasure party was killed, and the three policemen in charge were wounded by bullet and knife. The money was reported safe, under guard of one seriously wounded man, at the sixth mile.

TUSKER SHOT.
Mr. F. Weld on the 24th December bagged a bull-elephant at Chikus in Perak, standing 7 feet 6 in. at the shoulder, the tusks weighed 11½ lbs. The weapon used was a double-barred 12-bore rifle, carrying 6½ drs. of powder, and a hardened spherical lead bullet. One shot between its head and ear settled the beast.

A NAVAL FUNERAL.
A sailor died of enteric fever on board the Russian cruiser *Krylov* at Singapore on the 2nd inst. The songs on all the men-of-war and Government vessels in the harbour, were half-masted. The body was brought ashore on the afternoon of the 3rd, at 4 o'clock, in a boat towed by a steam-launch and accompanied by an officers' gig and a boatload of blue-jackets to form the firing party. The Russian Consul met the coffin with wreaths of flowers, and the procession then proceeded to the Catholic cemetery at Bukit Timah Road, where the services were read by the chaplain of the Russian Volunteer Fleet steamer *Vladimir*.

PICKPOCKETS AND SNAKERS.
Pickpockets and chain snatchers were greatly in evidence in Singapore on the occasion of the New Year Sports on the Esplanade. On the 3rd inst. Poh Ah Ki was sentenced to three months imprisonment for stealing 50 cents from the pocket of a compatriot on the Esplanade. Another Chinaman, who admitted three previous convictions, got six months, supplemented with fifteen cuts of the rotan, for a similar offence. A Chinese lad named Soh Ah Chong for snatching at a watch and chain got ten cuts with the rotan, and Lim Ah Chan, an older hand, who pleaded guilty to two previous convictions, for a similar offence, was sentenced to three months imprisonment and 15 cuts with the rotan. Hong Chong for snatching a chain also got six months' rigorous imprisonment.

THE SMOKE NUISANCE.
Widespread and influential support has been accorded since a home newspaper to a suggestion made by Sir W. B. Richmond, in a letter appearing in *The Times* of the 24th ult., that a society should be formed for obtaining the enforcement of the law against smoke nuisance; and a preliminary meeting of sympathisers was, by permission of Mr. Verney, for the purpose of constituting such a society. The Earl of Meath occupied the chair, and among others present were Sir W. B. Richmond, Lady Frederick Cavendish, Canon Wilberforce, and Sir Henry Lawrence.

It is high time that something of the same sort was done in Hongkong. The City of Victoria is becoming dreadfully smoky. Factories are multiplying. Steamers and steam launches are vomiting their blackest smoke all day and all night and steps ought to be taken without delay to compel them to consume in some fashion their own smoke.—Ed. *Times*. [7]

TROUBLE IN THE PHILIPPINES.

A NEW PHASE OF THE FILIPINO PROBLEM.

[From our own Correspondent.]

MANILA, January 10th.

The excitement in town consequent upon the issue of General Otis' proclamation, under direction of the Washington Government, had not yet subsided when the people were stimulated with a new and totally unexpected phase of the Filipino problem; this time the interest exhibited was more general, not to say considerably keener. The immense public manifestation of excitement was perfectly natural, considering the seriousness of the situation, the consequential effect of which concerned every living being in the Philippines as well as the interests of business people of all nationalities who are trading with the Islands and last, but not least, its illimitable issue upon a matter of great political result. The inference to be derived from the above, the intricate question referred to, is nothing short of the total reconsideration of the disposition of the Philippines, a question which had been taken for granted as having been arranged long ago.

The fact is that on the morning of Saturday, 7th inst. (two days after General Otis' proclamation was made public) the people awoke to find the streets lavishly placarded with a manifesto above the signature of Emilio Aguinaldo. The proclamation protests vehemently against the American "intrusion" into the Philippines. The following is a free translation of this interesting document:—

"Manifesto of the President of the Revolutionary Government.
"To my brothers, the Filipinos, and to all the Consuls and other foreigners.
"The proclamation of General E. S. Otis, of the Volunteers of the United States, published yesterday in the papers of Manila, obliged me to circulate the present so that all may know who read and understand this, my most solemn protest against what is contained in General Otis' proclamation. It is my duty, before my conscience, before God, before my political engagements with my beloved country and in view of my relations in particular with the officials of North America. General Otis calls himself in the proclamation referred to 'Military Governor of the Philippine Islands,' and I protest once and a thousand times and with all the energy of my soul against such authority. I solemnly proclaim that I never had either in Singapore or in Hongkong or here in the Philippines, any undertaking or agreement, either by word or by writing, to recognize the sovereignty of America in this my beloved country. On the contrary, I say that I refused to these islands on board an American warship on the 10th of May of last year with the decided and manifest proposition to carry on the war with the Spaniards to reconquer our liberty and our independence. I stated this in my official proclamation on the 24th of the said month of May and it was published in a manifesto to the Philippine people on the 12th of last June, when in my native town of Cavite I exhibited for the first time our holy national banner as a sacred emblem of that supreme aspiration; and further, this was confirmed by the American General Senator McKim, then Treasurer of General Otis in the manifesto which he directed to the Philippine people days before he intimated to the Spanish General Jaundenes that the town of Manila had capitulated, in which manifest it was clearly and definitely stated that the sea and land forces of the United States had come here to give us our liberty, overthrowing the bad Spanish Government.

"Finally, to state the case once and for all, nationals and foreigners are witnesses that the land and sea forces which are here of the United States, have recognised, even if only by their acts, the Filipinos as belligerents, not only as they have publicly saluted the Philippine flag which triumphantly sailed in these seas before the eyes of all foreign nations, represented here by their respective consuls.

"In the proclamation of General Otis he alludes to instructions written for him by His Excellency the President of the United States referring to the administration of affairs in the Philippine Islands. I solemnly protest in the name of God, the root and fountain of all justice, and of all right, and who has given to me the power to direct my dear brothers in the difficult work of our regeneration, against this intrusion of the Government of the United States in the sovereignty of these islands. Equally I protest in the name of all the Philippine people against this intrusion because when they gave me their vote of confidence, electing me, though unworthy, as President of the nation, when they did this they imposed on me the duty to sustain to the death their liberty and independence.

"Lastly, I protest against this act, so little expected, of the sovereignty of America in these islands, in the name of all that has passed, of which I have proofs in my possession, referring to my relations with the American authorities, which prove in the most unequivocal manner that the United States did not bring me from Hongkong to make war against the Spaniards to benefit the Americans, but to help us to gain our liberty and independence, for the attainment of which object the American authorities promised me verbally their decided and efficacious co-operation. And so you must understand my dear brothers that, united by bonds which it will be impossible to break, such is the idea of our liberty and absolute independence, which have been our noble aspirations, all must work together to arrive at this happy end, with the forces which give conviction, already so generally felt among all the people, to never turn back on the road to glory, on which we have already so far advanced.

On the following Monday, the town was startled by the appearance of another proclamation by Aguinaldo couched in more concise terms:—

"This government of the Philippines has come to the conclusion that its duty is to explain before all the civilized powers, the facts bearing on the rupture of amicable relations between the Filipinos and the army of the United States of America in these islands. In order that the foreign nations may be convinced that for my part I have done everything possible to avoid a rupture even to the extent of sacrificing uselessly many dear rights. After the naval battle on the 1st of May between the Spanish and American squadrons, the Commander of the American squadron agreed to my return from Hongkong to this my beloved country and he distributed among the Filipinos a number of rifles taken in the arsenal at Cavite undoubtedly with the intention that they should be used to support the revolution which was then, to a certain extent, subdued by the agreement of Biacnabato, in order to get the help of the Filipinos on the American side. The people of the Philippines, on account of the outbreak of war between the United States and Spain had their eyes open to the necessity of making a fight for their liberty and they felt

